

elementary and secondary education. When other Senators are doing other things, he is right there at the committee hearings. So he has made a quiet, effective, principled, studious contribution to the Senate, in my experience, these first few months, and I am delighted to have him here.

He has done so well I have invited him to come to Tennessee on Friday to speak to one of the largest gatherings we have annually in the State, and he has agreed to come, and we are grateful for that.

Finally, I would compliment him on one other thing. Sometimes I like to tell stories about the person for whom I came to the Senate to work—Senator Howard Baker. When Senator Baker first came in 1967, I would say to the Senator from South Carolina, the Republican leader was his father-in-law Everett Dirksen. Senator Baker made his maiden speech, probably from a back row about like Senator SCOTT is making his, and his father-in-law was sitting right where Senator MCCONNELL sits, listening to the whole thing. It went on, and it went on, and it went on for nearly an hour. After it was over, Senator Dirksen came over to Senator Baker, and Senator Baker said to his father-in-law: Well, how did I do? Senator Dirksen, the Republican leader, said to the new Senator: Maybe, Howard, you should occasionally try to enjoy the luxury of an unexpressed thought.

So I congratulate Senator SCOTT for his succinct maiden address. He is not only effective, studious, and diligent, he knows how to speak his words clearly and succinctly, and it is wonderful to see him.

Mr. SCOTT. I thank the Senator.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST ROBERT A. PIERCE

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, my colleagues and I are often at odds when trying to solve some of our Nation's most pressing and difficult problems. However, one thing we can all agree on is that the men and women who wear our Nation's uniforms are selfless heroes who embody the American spirit of courage and patriotism. We must continue to honor the sacrifice and service of our troops who have fought to protect and defend our freedoms. Today, I am here to pay my respects to Army SPC Robert A. Pierce, an Arkansas soldier who gave his life while in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Specialist Pierce graduated from Mansfield High School and spent his free time perfecting his steak cooking abilities at the Bulldog Diner in Greenwood, AK. A former coworker described these as "the best steaks ever."

Specialist Pierce's friends say the money he earned at his part-time job went to fixing his truck. His love of auto mechanics led him to do most of the work himself. Specialist Pierce's family said he joined the military in 2011 to make a difference.

He served in South Korea before his assignment at Fort Campbell. He was a member of A Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, KY. SPC Robert Pierce was only 20 when he gave his life for his country last month while on patrol in Afghanistan. Specialist Pierce is a true American hero who made the ultimate sacrifice.

I ask my colleagues to keep his wife Christian and the rest of his family and friends in their thoughts and prayers.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I humbly offer my sincerest gratitude for his patriotism and selfless sacrifice.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH C. MCQUAID

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, on Monday, July 1, 2013, Joseph C. McQuaid was laid to rest, with full military honors, in the Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver, CO.

A proud World War II veteran, Joseph "Big Joe" McQuaid will rest beside his brother John "Hootcher" McQuaid, also a World War II veteran. Joe was one of the most unique, memorable persons I have known in my lifetime. He was also my brother-in-law.

Joe was born on March 16, 1919 in the family farmhouse near Stuart, IA. A proud Irishman, Joe always noted that his birthday was one day before St. Patrick's Day. Joe, his two brothers, and sister were born and raised in a loving, but very poor, family. His father "Willie" was a self-taught, accomplished musician, playing the fiddle and piano in local bands around Iowa.

From an early age, Joe was known as "Big Joe" because he was a big bear of a man, standing 6 feet 4 inches and tipping the scale around 240 pounds, all muscle and bone. He used to show off his strength by tearing phonebooks and decks of cards in half as if they were pieces of paper. This always impressed a lot of young kids.

Joe also liked to balance heavy, unwieldy objects, such as lawnmowers, on his chin. It wasn't only heavy objects he could balance. He is the only person I have ever seen who could balance a

straw broom on his nose. He could entertain a group of kids for hours by doing his balancing tricks.

When the Great Depression hit the Midwest, Joe's family, like so many others, was in dire economic straits. So Joe, at the age of 16, went to work in the Civilian Conservation Corps, the CCC. The legal age was 18, but because of Joe's size and the poverty at home, Joe said he was 18 and thus joined the CCC. Young men left home, lived in CCC camps, worked on building dams and dikes, cleared roads in winter, cleaned up after floods, and created State parks and recreation areas. CCC camps were run in a semimilitary fashion.

Joe worked at the CCC camps for 3 years and was paid \$36 a month. As Joe remembered, he sent \$30 home and kept \$6 for himself. He often said the CCC was President Roosevelt's best program.

The day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Joe went right down to the recruiting office and signed up for military duty. He joined the Navy and spent most of the war years as a Boatswain Mate First Class on destroyer escorts, escorting troop ships and cargo ships the United States to Russia, England, and North Africa.

His ship, the USS *Marchand*, sank several German U-boats and rescued survivors of cargo and troopships sunk by enemy torpedoes. Joe was present at Normandy on D-day, again protecting the troopships and big cruisers from enemy submarines.

After the war in Europe ended, Joe was sent to the Pacific as a Boatswain Mate on a troopship headed to the Philippines. During his voyage, Joe's ship was attacked by Japanese kamikaze planes. As the acting Chief Boatswain Mate, Joe got all the anti-aircraft guns manned, taking a 50 caliber mount himself. They brought down all the enemy aircraft, and not one hit the ship. Joe remembered how one crashed in the water so close that ocean spray and parts of the aircraft landed on the ship's deck.

Sometime after that, on their way to the Philippines, Joe ordered—through his boatswain pipe—all hands on deck for an important announcement from the captain. The captain said that after dropping two atom bombs on Japan that wiped out two cities, President Harry S. Truman said the Japanese surrendered and the war was over. There was unrestrained cheering and backslapping among the troops and sailors. Joe asked the captain if he should use his boatswain pipe to call them to order, and the captain said "No, no, let them go." They refueled at sea, and headed back to Honolulu.

After nearly 4 straight years at sea, dodging and sinking U-boats in the North Atlantic, surviving kamikaze attacks in the Pacific, "Big Joe" was back in Iowa with a chest full of medals and his beloved boatswain pipe.